

Section I (Amendments to the Claims)

1. (Original) A multilayer film comprising: a layer of sealing film, having main top and bottom surfaces; and a layer of thermoplastic polymer film, laminated to the layer of sealing film, on at least one of the main top and bottom surfaces; wherein the sealing film has a composition and thickness imparting gas barrier character to the multilayer film and wherein the layer(s) of thermoplastic polymer film alone lacks such gas barrier character.
2. (Original) The multilayer film of claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic polymer film comprises a thermoplastic polymer selected from the group consisting of polyurethane elastomers, polyester ether elastomers, polyamide elastomers, polyamides, styrenic elastomers, polyvinylchloride, polyvinylethers, ethylene vinyl acetate, polyethylene, polyethylene copolymers, polypropylene copolymers, and combinations of two or more of the foregoing, and wherein when the multilayer film comprises more than one layer of thermoplastic polymer film, each of such layers may be compositionally the same as or different from other layers of thermoplastic polymeric material.
3. (Original) The multilayer film of claim 1, wherein the sealing film comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polyvinylidene chloride (PVDC), polyvinylidene bromide, and ethylene vinyl alcohol polymers.
4. (Original) The multilayer film of claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic polymer film comprises a thermoplastic polymer selected from the group consisting of polyurethane and polyurethane copolymers.
5. (Original) The multilayer film of claim 1, wherein the sealing film comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polyvinylidene chloride and EVOH.
6. (Original) The multilayer film of claim 1, wherein the sealing film comprises polyvinylidene chloride.
7. (Original) The multilayer film of claim 1, having a thickness in a range of from about 0.5 to about 50 mils (0.0127 mm to 1.27 mm).

8. (Original) The multilayer film of claim 1, having a thickness in a range of from about 0.5 to about 10 mils (0.0127 mm to 0.254 mm).
9. (Original) The multilayer film of claim 1, having a thickness in a range of from about 2 mils to about 6 mils (0.0508 mm to 0.1524 mm).
10. (Original) The multilayer film of claim 1, wherein the thickness of the sealing film is in a range of from about 0.2 mil to about 6 mil (0.00508 mm to 0.1524 mm).
11. (Original) The multilayer film of claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic polymer film has a thickness in a range of from about 2.0 mils to about 20.0 mils (0.0508 mm to 0.508 mm).
12. (Original) The multilayer film of claim 1, comprising a sealing film of polyvinylidene chloride, having a thickness in a range of from about 0.25 to about 2.0 mil (0.00635 mm to 0.0508 mm), to which a polyurethane elastomer film, having a thickness in a range of from about 2.0 mils to about 5.0 mils (0.0508 mm to 0.127 mm), is extrusion bonded.
13. (Original) The multilayer film of claim 1, bonded to a second such film.
14. (Original) The multilayer film of claim 13, wherein the bonded multilayer film and film bonded thereto form a gas-retentive enclosure.
15. (Original) A gas-retentive enclosure comprising a multilayer film, wherein said multilayer film comprises: a layer of sealing film, having main top and bottom surfaces; and a layer of thermoplastic polymer film, laminated to the layer of sealing film, on at least one of the main top and bottom surfaces; wherein the sealing film has a composition and thickness imparting gas barrier character to the multilayer film and wherein the layer(s) of thermoplastic polymer film alone lacks such gas barrier character.
16. (Original) The gas-retentive enclosure of claim 15, further comprising a means for introducing gas into an interior volume of the gas-retentive enclosure.

17. (Original) The gas-retentive enclosure of claim 16, further comprising a means for releasing gas from the interior volume of the gas-retentive enclosure.
18. (Original) The gas-retentive enclosure of claim 15, wherein gas retained in said enclosure comprises water vapor.
19. (Original) The gas-retentive enclosure of claim 15, wherein gas retained in said enclosure comprises carbon dioxide.
20. (Original) A gastric occlusive device, comprising: a balloon formed of a multilayer film comprising: a layer of sealing film, having main top and bottom surfaces; and a layer of thermoplastic polymer film, laminated to the layer of sealing film, on at least one of the main top and bottom surfaces; wherein the sealing film has a composition and thickness imparting gas barrier character to the multilayer film and wherein the layer(s) of thermoplastic polymer film alone lacks such gas barrier character.; and an effervescent material contained in said balloon, and arranged for contact with introduced liquid reactive with the effervescent material to liberate gas for inflation of the balloon.
21. (Original) The gastric occlusive device of claim 20, wherein the thermoplastic polymer film comprises a thermoplastic polymer selected from the group consisting of polyurethane elastomers, polyester ether elastomers, polyamide elastomers, polyamides, styrenic elastomers, polyvinylchloride, polyvinylethers, ethylene vinyl acetate, polyethylene, polyethylene copolymers, polypropylene copolymers, and combinations of two or more of the foregoing, and wherein when the multilayer film comprises more than one layer of thermoplastic polymer film, each of such layers may be compositionally the same as or different from other layers of thermoplastic polymeric material.
22. (Original) The gastric occlusive device of claim 20, wherein the sealing film comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polyvinylidene chloride (PVDC), polyvinylidene bromide, and ethylene vinyl alcohol polymers.
23. (Original) The gastric occlusive device of claim 20, wherein the thermoplastic polymer film

comprises a thermoplastic polymer selected from the group consisting of polyurethane and polyurethane co-polymers.

24. (Original) The gastric occlusive device of claim 20, wherein the sealing film comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polyvinylidene chloride and EVOH.

25. (Original) The gastric occlusive device of claim 20, wherein the thermoplastic polymer film is formed of polyurethane or a polyurethane co-polymer.

26. (Original) The gastric occlusive device of claim 20, wherein the sealing film comprises polyvinylidene chloride.

27. (Original) The gastric occlusive device of claim 20, wherein the multilayer film has a thickness in a range of from about 0.5 to about 50 mils (0.0127 mm to 1.27 mm).

28. (Original) The gastric occlusive device of claim 20, wherein the multilayer film has a thickness in a range of from about 0.5 to about 10 mils (0.0127 mm to 0.254 mm).

29. (Original) The gastric occlusive device of claim 20, wherein the multilayer film has a thickness in a range of from about 2 mils to about 6 mils (0.0508 mm to 0.1524 mm).

30. (Original) The gastric occlusive device of claim 20, wherein the thickness of the sealing film is in a range of from about 0.2 mil to about 6 mil (0.00508 mm to 0.1524 mm).

31. (Original) The gastric occlusive device of claim 20, wherein the thermoplastic polymer film has a thickness in a range of from about 2.0 mils to about 20.0 mils (0.0508 mm to 0.508 mm).

32. (Original) The gastric occlusive device of claim 20, comprising a sealing film of polyvinylidene chloride, having a thickness in a range of from about 0.25 to about 2.0 mil (0.00635 mm to 0.0508 mm), to which a polyurethane elastomer film, having a thickness in a range of from about 2.0 mils to about 5.0 mils (0.0508 mm to 0.127 mm), is extrusion bonded.

33. (Original) The gastric occlusive device of claim 20, wherein two pieces of multilayer film are bonded to one another.

34. (Original) The gastric occlusive device of claim 20, wherein two half-sections of multilayer film are thermoformed, and then bonded to one another.

35. (Original) The gastric occlusive device of claim 20, wherein two pieces of multilayer film are bonded circumferentially to one another to form a 360° seal having a seam devoid of any neck or opening therein.

36. (Original) A method of therapeutic intervention for treatment of a patient in need of such treatment, said method comprising: introducing to a physiological locus of a patient in need of such therapeutic intervention a balloon formed of a multilayer film, wherein said multilayer film comprises: a layer of sealing film, having main top and bottom surfaces; and a layer of thermoplastic polymer film, on at least one of the main top and bottom surfaces of the sealing film; wherein the sealing film has a composition and thickness imparting gas barrier character to the multilayer film and wherein the layer(s) of thermoplastic polymer film alone lacks such gas barrier character; with an effervescent material contained in said balloon, and arranged for contact with introduced liquid reactive with the effervescent material to liberate gas for inflation of the balloon.

37. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein said balloon comprises two pieces of said multilayer film bonded to one another.

38. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein said balloon comprises two half-sections of multilayer film that are thermoformed, and then bonded to one another.

39. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein said balloon comprises two pieces of multilayer film that are bonded circumferentially to one another to form a 360° seal having a seam devoid of any neck or opening therein.

40. (Original) The method of claim 36, further comprising contacting the effervescent material with liquid reactive therewith to liberate gas for inflation of the balloon at said physiological locus.

41. (New) A gastric occlusive balloon adapted to be inflated by an inflation medium in a gastric cavity of a subject for treatment of said subject, said balloon including a film adapted to retain the

balloon in an inflated state for a predetermined period of time sufficient for said treatment of said subject and to deflate after said period of time by egress of said inflation medium through the film.

42. (New) The gastric occlusive balloon of claim 41, wherein said film provides a seal that is degradable in exposure to physiological components in said gastric cavity.

43. (New) The gastric occlusive balloon of claim 41, wherein said film comprises a thermoplastic material.

44. (New) The gastric occlusive balloon of claim 43, wherein said thermoplastic material comprises the material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyester, and polyamide.

45. (New) The gastric occlusive balloon of claim 43, wherein said thermoplastic material comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylether, ethylene vinyl acetate, and combinations of two or more of the foregoing.

46. (New) The gastric occlusive balloon of claim 41, wherein said film comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polyvinylidene chloride, polyvinylidene bromide, and ethylene vinyl alcohol polymers.

47. (New) The gastric occlusive balloon of claim 41, wherein said film comprises polyvinylidene chloride, and polyurethane.

48. (New) The gastric occlusive balloon of claim 41, wherein the balloon contains an inflation gas-generating reactant.

49. (New) The gastric occlusive balloon of claim 48, wherein said inflation gas-generating reactant in the presence of water or moisture reacts to form CO₂ gas.

50. (New) The gastric occlusive balloon of claim 41, having a diameter when inflated in a range of from 3 to 5 inches.

51. (New) The gastric occlusive balloon of claim 41, wherein said balloon is adapted to be inflated by a gas supply tube when the balloon is disposed in the gastric cavity of said subject.

52. (New) The gastric occlusive balloon of claim 41, wherein said film includes a seam therein.

53. (New) The gastric occlusive balloon of claim 52, wherein said seam comprises an RF welded seam.

54. (New) The gastric occlusive balloon of claim 41, wherein said film comprises a degradable seal formed of an ethylene vinyl acetate/hydroxycellulose material that is progressively degradable in the gastric cavity to create an opening in the balloon for deflation of said balloon.

55. (New) A gastric occlusive balloon adapted to be inflated by an inflation medium in a gastric cavity of a subject for treatment of said subject, said balloon including a film adapted to retain the balloon in an inflated state for a period of time sufficient for said treatment of said subject and to deflate after said predetermined period of time by egress of said inflation medium through the film, wherein said film comprises (i) polyvinylidene chloride or EVOH polymer, and (ii) polyurethane, and said balloon has a diameter when inflated in a range of from 3 to 5 inches.

56. (New) The gastric occlusive device of claim 20, wherein two pieces of multilayer film are bonded circumferentially to one another to form a 360° seal having a seam with a neck or opening therein.